

Docket No.: 021XG

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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March 6, 2002
(date)
Alan Israel
Reg. No. 27,564

In re: Application of : Jerome SWARTZ
Filed : March 6, 2002
For : POINT-OF-SALE SYSTEM WITH REAL-TIME
DATABASE ACCESS AND PRINTING OF
HUMAN-READABLE PRICE INFORMATION

New York, New York
March 6, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and before examination, please amend this patent application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please change the title to read as set forth on the enclosed page.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 1, under the heading: "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS", delete lines 1-5, and substitute the following as set forth on the enclosed page.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-29, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 30-39 as set forth on the enclosed pages.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Delete the original Abstract replace it with the new "Abstract of the Disclosure" set forth on the enclosed page.

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of pending parent application U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/969,005, filed November 12, 1997.

The claims of the instant application are directed to subject matter of the originally filed parent application. The Abstract and Title have been amended to be directed to the presently claimed subject matter.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.

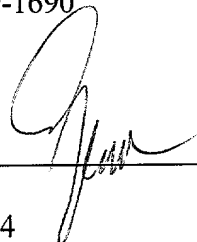
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PROPOSED SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Page 1, line 1, under the heading: "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS", delete lines 1-5, and substitute the following:

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/969,005, filed November 12, 1997, which, in turn, is a continuation of U.S. patent Application Serial No. 08/679,310, filed July 12, 1996, which, in turn, is a division of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/400,840, filed March 8, 1995, which, in turn, is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/292,584, filed August 18, 1994, which, in turn, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 07/921,414, filed July 27, 1992, now abandoned, which, in turn, is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 07/553,559, filed July 16, 1990, now abandoned, which, in turn, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 07/392,207, filed August 10, 1989, which, in turn, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 07/138,563, filed December 28, 1987, now U.S. Patent No. 4,871,904. This application is related to U.S. patent application Serial No. 07/966,906, filed October 22, 1992, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 07/553,558, filed July 16, 1990, now abandoned.

PROPOSED NEW ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A database of a host computer stores attribute data, such as price, of many products. The database is accessed by wireless transmission on a real-time basis to automatically retrieve the price of a selected product. The retrieved data is printed on paper in human-readable form by a printer. The paper and the selected product are presented to a check-out site to complete purchase of the product.

PROPOSED NEW CLAIMS

30. A method of processing products in a point-of-sale system, the system comprising one or more customer price information stations, one or more customer check-out sites, and a host computer coupled to the one or more customer price information stations, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) storing information relating to the products in a database of the host computer;
- b) presenting a selected product to a said customer price information station, the product bearing no human-readable price information;
- c) identifying the selected product by electro-optically reading indicia associated with the selected product, the indicia having parts of different light reflectivity;
- d) interrogating the host computer on a real-time basis for price information on the identified product;
- e) printing a paper containing human-readable price information relating to the product obtained from the host computer; and
- f) presenting the paper and the product at a said customer check-out site to complete purchase of the product.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein the identifying step is performed by directing a light beam to the indicia, detecting at least a portion of light of variable intensity reflected off the indicia over a field of view, scanning at least one of said light beam and said field of view, and processing electrical signals indicative of the detected light intensity into data descriptive of the indicia.

32. The method according to claim 31, wherein the identifying step is performed in a hand-held reader aimable at the indicia during reading.

33. The method according to claim 31, wherein the identifying step is performed in a desk-top, stand-alone workstation.

34. The method according to claim 31, wherein the identifying step is performed in a movable reader positionable relative to a work surface.

35. The method according to claim 34, wherein the reader is connected to one end of a bendable arm; and further comprising the step of bending the arm to position the reader in a desired orientation.

36. The method according to claim 30, wherein the identifying step is performed in a reader, and wherein the interrogating step is performed by interconnecting the reader and the host computer.

37. The method according to claim 36, wherein the reader and the host computer are interconnected along a wireless link.

38. The method according to claim 30, wherein the identifying step is performed in a reader, and wherein the printing step is performed by mounting a printer on-board the reader.

39. The method according to claim 30, wherein the printing step is performed by a portable printer.

PROPOSED TITLE AMENDMENTS

Please change the title to read as follows:

POINT-OF-SALE SYSTEM WITH REAL-TIME DATABASE

ACCESS AND PRINTING OF HUMAN-READABLE PRICE INFORMATION